

# HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS



HAN 2 January 1967

WOOLHOPE CLUB  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION

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**WOOLHOPE CLUB  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION  
NEWS SHEET**

**No. 2      January 1967**

**FUTURE PROGRAMME**

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 1967, at 7.30 pm**

Evening meeting at 29 Breinton Road, Hereford.

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 1967, at 2.00 pm**

Meet at Bredwardine Bridge at 2.00 pm

Field meeting to examine the Bredwardine area in preparation for the survey of the Castle area.

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April, 1967, at 10.30 am**

Meet at Bredwardine Bridge

Field survey of the Castle site at Bredwardine. Bring picnic lunch.

**AREA CORRESPONDENT**

Area 12 has been taken over by Mr Coleman.

**VISITS TO MONUMENTS**

Since the last News Sheet, many reports have been sent in to me, and as a result it has been possible to send in a report to the Ministry of Works. This certainly shows that it is essential that Scheduled Monuments are regularly visited and their condition noted. The report sent through Mr Stanford included the following:-

1.     No. 24, Craswall Priory  
Steady deterioration of masonry. Further collapse of walling and architectural detail following Wright's recent excavations in the North and South chapels, Chapter House, etc. Gradual destruction also by unrestricted tree growth.
  
2.     No. 131, Urishay Chapel  
North wall of nave in a state of collapse, roughly shored up with timber. Late medieval nave roof partially collapsed. Holes in chancel roof. Deterioration of plaster cartouches over north and south windows of nave. All glass in windows broken.
  
3.     No. 129, Avenbury Church  
Progressive deterioration of fabric – very overgrown.
  
4.     No. 130, Grafton-Bullingham Old Church  
Progressive deterioration of fabric – very overgrown.
  
5.     No. 20, Longtown Castle  
Some underpinning of masonry on the east side of the circular keep – foundations showing. Walls in bailey badly overgrown.
  
6.     No. 116, Richards Castle  
Deterioration of masonry is beginning to take place due to unfilled excavation.

7. No. 126, Penyard Castle  
Rapid deterioration of the farmhouse has continued. The 14<sup>th</sup> Century undercroft is in a state of collapse and is very badly overgrown.
8. No. 16, Ewyas Harold Castle  
Some encroachment by new housing on fosse and counterscarp north of motte.
9. No. 5, Wigmore Castle  
Standing masonry generally deteriorating, and in many places undermined by collapse and ancient stone-robbing so as to be unsafe. Its condition is a disgrace for so important a site. Given a few more decades of the present neglect there would be little but earthwork left to see.
10. No. 155, Shobdon Arches  
Progressive overall weathering of carvings, with increasing loss of detail. Numerous deep frost splits in several of the carved shafts. Is it possible to impregnate the stonework against water impregnation? Has the Ministry discussed the problem of preservation with the owner?

It is noteworthy that of these 10 monuments, damage is caused by weathering in seven cases and as a direct result of excavations in two others.

Other reports:-

- 143 King Arthur's Cave  
Since the last News Sheet, I hear that a new metal direction board has been erected and the cave has been cleaned out to a certain extent.
- 103 Kingsland Castle  
A suggestion that the extensive system of ditches beyond the mound to the east and south-east would repay surveying.

I have now had reports for about 70 of the 152 scheduled monuments in the county for 1966. Others are still slowly coming in which should give the basis for a reasonable report to the Woolhope Club on 18<sup>th</sup> February. If you have further reports, please let me have them well before this date.

#### **CHANGES IN UNSCHEDULED LIST**

Many people have told me that this list is incomplete. I fear that it will still be incomplete in 10 years or 100 years as new sites are discovered or brought to our notice. I am hoping to extend the list with the next circular, when I have time to assess the more recent information. However, as was rather inevitable, I listed as unscheduled two monuments already on the scheduled list. Would you please cross off the following:-

- U8 Lingen Mound at 373 681 – 109 on scheduled list.
- U18 Kings Pyon Barrow (? Motte) at 442 490 – 104 on scheduled list.

Any additions to this list, let me know for the next issue.

### **Future Programme Survey**

The most popular evening according to the survey is THURSDAY. As a result, the February meeting is arranged for a Thursday. Visits to sites do not attract half as much interest as field surveys although the choice of day is about even. Bredwardine on two different dates is the result.

Other suggestions included meetings on a regular night in a central location, preparation of a card index of sites with all references, marking of all sites and finds on 6" maps, report and plans of new sites published in WNFC Transactions, etc., etc.

### **OFFA'S DYKE COURSES**

Members may be interested in these courses, being organized by Mr Noble and the WEA.

1. Weekend course for teachers and youth leaders on the Offa's Dyke National Footpath. At Staunton-on-Wye Youth Hostel on the weekend of February 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>.
2. Introduction lecture at the City Library on the 'Southern Border' on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February at 2.30 pm in preparation for:-
3. A series of Sunday study walks along the Offa's Dyke National Footpath. These start at Chepstow on March 5<sup>th</sup> and during the course of 6 Sundays cover the length of footpath from there to Hay-on-Wye. Coach from Hereford.

Details of any of these from myself or Frank Noble.

### **WOOLHOPE CLUB MEETINGS**

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February 1967, 'The Cornish House' – J W Tonkin, BA.

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March 1967, 'Croft Ambrey – Final Conclusions' – S C Stanford.

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April 1967, Spring Annual Meeting.

All at 3.00 pm in the Woolhope Room, City Library.

### **ARCHENFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP**

This group, which is going through rather a difficult time, is holding its Annual General Meeting on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1967 at 7.30 pm at Goodrich School.

If you feel that you can help at all or you are interested in the group's activities, I am sure you will be made very welcome.

### **HEREFORD EXCAVATIONS**

I have recently received reports of the excavations in Hereford during 1965 and 1966. The proposed programme for the first half of 1967 is also to hand, and two weekend "digs" have already taken place.

This seems a good point to review the situation, firstly considering the state of our knowledge about the defences of Hereford and secondly the attempts being made to preserve as much as possible for the future.

### **The Defences**

Ramparts of three different periods have been found in the Victoria Street excavations.

Although the wall line could not be ascertained by excavation, all probable lines indicate that the first rampart built was well in front of this line. It appears that the second phase involved an increase in size, the rear of this bank being some seven feet behind the first. Next comes a massive rampart. Overlying the second, the tail seems to be some 25 to 30 feet behind it. As yet, no firm dating evidence has been uncovered for any of these phases. If the assumption is made that the third one is that of Harold Godwin in 1055-6, then the earlier two could well give evidence for the earliest foundations of Hereford. It is possible that a Roman fort could have fitted between this early bank and the line of Kings Ditch in Aubrey

Street, indeed a piece of Roman pottery was found in the earlier bank. The continuance of this excavation could prove or disprove this theory.

It may also be possible, at a later phase in the operation, to discover which of these banks continue to the north of West Street and to the North of Eign Street. Perhaps an easier method of determining the line of the earlier defences than costly sections across the ditches? Signs of the earliest bank may possibly show in front of the wall in Bevan & Hodges' yard.

### **Preservation**

As the ring road is extended along Victoria Street, more of the wall will be shown. If this can be preserved, repaired, and if essential in places rebuilt, and the area between the new road and the wall grassed over, then Hereford will indeed have a by-pass which is worthy of it. A by-pass which will encourage the motorist to stop and see the rest of the city, a by-pass which will not be a heedless cut across back streets, but one in which the city can justly be proud. It is important that the wall line is preserved along Victoria Street and a quick decision made about the wall-less section from bastion 4 to West Street. Can enough of the rampart be disinterred along this section to make it into a feature? Is it better to find the footings of the wall and use these as a base? Or, through apathy, are the gaps to be filled with hoardings advertising soap and cigarettes?

The effort has to be made, and as a first step, it is necessary to discover what is there. Help is needed in these excavations.

**RS**

### **Future Programme**

Thursday and Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February 1967 – Half term.

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March to Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1967 – Easter.

Details from myself or Frank Noble (Director of Excavations)

### **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Reading the recently-issued Transactions for 1965, which includes the report of the foundation of the Archaeological Research Section, my eye alighted upon the fourth article of our Constitution. This reads:-

“Membership shall be open to all Club members prepared to take an active part in the Section's work.”

This sentence aroused a feeling of guilt in my own mind that I, for one, had not been as active as the Constitution requires. Judging by the attendance at recent meetings and the lack of reports on Scheduled Monuments from certain members, I am not alone in my relative inactivity. I am sure that we have all had good reason at some time or other for being unable to be present at meetings, especially when they have been held at a distant part of the county. Site inspection, however, can usually be fitted into one's normal activities and a brief report does not take long to write. This work is important – sites of archaeological interest are being lost or damaged by the demands of builders and the thoughtless bulldozing of farmers.

Armchair Archaeology, like Bar-Room Mountaineering, is a pleasant pastime but ACTIVE PARTICIPATION is needed to achieve results.

**ELC**

### **CONFERENCE**

The University of Birmingham Annual Conference of Archaeological Research Groups and Societies will be held at the Tudor Hotel, Wells Road, Malvern.

It will be held on Saturday and Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of March 1967.

The Conference fee is seven shillings and six pence non-residential.

The Conference will be split into four sections, one on pre-Roman, one on Roman, one on post-Roman and one on Urban Archaeology.

It seems both useful and important that at least one member of our group should attend, so if you are interested and have some free time on that weekend, please let me know as soon as possible and I will let you have full details.

The News Sheet has improved from its first issue and now has four pages.

I hope to start getting the third issue together shortly after Easter. Your help will certainly be needed, articles on any suitable subject are needed, news about monuments, both scheduled and unscheduled, events of interest to other members and news of recent excavations, will be very welcome. Let me have them by Easter or at the latest the end of March.

**RS**